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DMITRY MURATOV

MARIA RESSA

TWO JOURNALISTS SHARE PEACE NOBEL

Journalists Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia, who have fought for freedom of expression, won the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday. Ressa has focused on "President Rodrigo Duterte regime's controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign" through news website Rappler she co-founded in 2012. Muratov was one of the founders of independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta in 1993. P16

Welcome back!

While admittedly it will take considerable effort to rebuild Air India, it will hopefully provide a very strong market opportunity to the Tata Group's presence in the aviation industry
Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus, Tata Sons

Jobs, benefits protected

Tata has to retain all employees for a period of one year

VRS will be offered to those terminated after 1 year

Employees will be provided gratuity and PF benefits as per laws

Post-retirement medical benefits for those who have already retired or will retire in future will also be protected

Around **5,000** employees are due to retire in the next five years

Air India flies to its former owner; no resale for 5 yrs

Tata heirloom returns home

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

SIXTY-eight years after it ceded control of Air India to the government, the Tata group on Friday won the bid to take over the national carrier, thus successfully completing the Centre's multiple attempts to turn around and sell the debt-ridden airline.

Talace Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Tata Sons, made the winning bid of ₹18,000 crore, said Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). Of the ₹18,000 crore, ₹15,300 crore would be the debt retained by the winning bidder and Tata Sons will pay ₹2,700 crore in cash, Pandey said.

The transaction, however, does not include non-core assets such as land and building, valued at ₹14,718 crore. These will be transferred to the Air India Asset Holding Ltd.

Air India has a debt of ₹61,562 crore at the end of August 31. After payout by the Tatas, ₹46,262 crore of debt will still remain with government entities.

"The next step will be to issue the Letter of Intent (LoI) and then sign the Share Purchase Agreement following which, the conditions precedent would need to be satisfied by the successful bidder, the company and Government. It is expected that the transaction will be completed by December 2021," read a finance ministry statement.

"It has been ensured that the interest of the employees and retired employees would be taken care of," the finance ministry added, clarifying on the fate of 12,000-odd employees of Air India.

WINNING BID
₹18,000 cr
₹2,700 cr cash
₹15,300 cr debt takeover
Air India Employees
Total 12,085
Permanent 8,084
Contract (out) 4,001
Bag of goodies
100% stake in Air India
100% stake in AI Express
Air India's 117 wide-body and narrow-body aircraft
Control of 4,400 domestic & 1,800 global landing and parking slots

The Centre added that the winning bidder will retain all employees for one year. If they are retrenched after one year, they will be offered a voluntary retirement scheme. On Air India's brand and logo, the government said the winning bidder will have to retain them for five years.

The government had set the reserve price for the airline at ₹12,906 crore. Apart from the Tata group, Spicejet chairman Ajay Singh had placed a bid of ₹15,100 crore (₹2,265 crore cash payment and ₹12,835 crore debt takeover).

The process for disinvestment of Air India and its subsidiaries had commenced in June 2017. However, there was no bidder for the first round. The government then reworked the terms and conditions and re-commenced on January 27, 2020. P17

SC slams UP for failing to arrest minister's son

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

EXPRESSING dissatisfaction at the way the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in UP is being probed, the Supreme Court on Friday said the state government should show some seriousness in dealing with it.

"Your seriousness is only in words and not in your actions," Chief Justice of India N V Ramana snapped at senior advocate Harish Salve, who appeared for the UP government.

"Is this the way you treat (murder) accused in other cases as well?" the CJI asked, when Salve said the UP Police have issued summons to accused Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, to appear at 11 am on Saturday, since he failed to turn up on Friday.

When Salve said the summons was issued to the accused since the autopsy report did not find bullet wounds on the bodies of the eight victims, the court asked, "Is this a ground for not taking custody?"

Salve conceded, "The manner in which this car was driven, it leaves no doubt that the allegations (of farmers mowed down) are true. It is possibly a 302 (Sec 302, which prescribes punishment for murder)."

The court shot back, "This is a responsible state government and police. When there is a serious allegation of death or gunshot injury, will the other accused in this country be treated the same way? Sending them notices, like asking to please come tell us?... See what is the message we are sending. In normal circumstances, if a 302 case is registered, what will the police do? Go and arrest the accused." The bench was hearing a PIL registered on the basis of a letter sent by two lawyers.

The CJI also did not see merit in an SIT formed for the case, saying they are all local officers. He asked the state to direct the DGP to protect the evidence. P11

EXPRESS READ

Indian, Chinese troops face off near Tawang

NEW DELHI: Indian and Chinese soldiers were involved in a face-off in Tawang Sector along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh last week, sources said. The clash occurred when patrolling parties from the two sides came in front of each other near Yangtse. Each side asked the other to retreat to their respective positions, leading to the skirmish, an official said. Both sides are holding talks to reduce tension along the border. P11

RBI expresses concern over high fuel prices

MUMBAI: Flagging concerns over the inflationary impact of the high indirect taxes on fuels for the second time, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said it is now for the government to take a decision on the issue, which is pinching common citizens. Das said that the government has acted on other supply side issues like pulses and edible oils. P17

The spot where the accident occurred near Kachohalli Cross on Magadi Road, on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

Pothole claims teenager's life on Bengaluru outskirts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU'S notorious potholes claimed another life on Friday. A teenaged girl, who was riding the pillion of a two-wheeler, fell on the road when the rider was trying to avoid a pothole. A speeding truck coming from behind crushed her to death near Kachohalli Cross on Magadi Road in Madanayakanahalli police limits on the outskirts of the city. Two others, who were riding the scooter, sustained minor injuries.

Nubia (17), a class 8 student, died on the spot, while her sister Afrin (15) and relative Ahran (28), who was riding the vehicle, suffered minor injuries. All three are residents of Goripalya off Mysuru Road. P9

Nod to appoint four lawyers as K'taka HC judges

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Supreme Court Collegium has approved a proposal for the elevation of four advocates as judges of the Karnataka High Court. The names of advocates proposed are AR Hegde, CM Poonacha, S Rachaiah and KS Hemalekha. The Collegium has resolved to approve the proposal at a meeting on October 6.

DAP

K'TAKA REQUESTS CENTRE

CM Basavaraj Bommai met Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya and sought supplies of 32,000 tonnes of DAP for the Rabi season. *TNIE* was the first to report that farmers in the State are facing a shortage of DAP | P4

KARNATAKA UDYOG MITRA

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka

BE AN ENTREPRENEUR
BECOME AN EMPLOYER

The workshop will include:

- Sensitisation on Schemes, Incentives and Facilities offered by Government of India and Government of Karnataka for prospective entrepreneurs
- Sectoral information and hand holding for new entrepreneurs
- Interaction with experts
- Testimonials by successful industry leaders

October 11, 2021 | 9:30 AM
Bengaluru Palace, Bengaluru
(Bengaluru Urban, Rural, Chikkaballapura,Kolar, Ramnagar)

Kalburgi
November 2021
(Ballari, Bidar, Kalburgi, Koppala, Raichuru, Yadagiri, Vijayanagara)

Mysuru
November 2021
(Chamarajnagar, Chikkamagalur, Hassan, Kodagu, Mandya, Mysuru)

Belagavi
December 2021
(Belagavi, Bagalkote, Vijayapura, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Uttr Kan)

Mangaluru
December 2021
(Dakshina Kannada and Udupi)

Bengaluru Revenue Division 2
January 2022
(Tumkuru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Shivamogga)

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- KSSIDC
- KSPCB
- Labour
- RDPR
- Factories and Boilers
- Urban Development
- Municipal Administration
- Fire Department
- Energy Department & Others

Download your applications at https://ebiz.karnataka.gov.in/eBiz and email it to your respective district's Joint Director, District Industries Center.

October 12, 2021 | 10:30 AM
Bengaluru Palace, Bengaluru
(Bengaluru Urban, Rural, Chikkaballapura,Kolar, Ramnagar)

Kalburgi
November 2021
(Ballari, Bidar, Kalburgi, Koppala, Raichuru, Yadagiri, Vijayanagara)

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Bengaluru Revenue Division 2
January 2022
(Tumkuru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Shivamogga)

Sri Murugesh R. Nirani,
Hon'ble Minister for Large and Medium Industries, Govt. of Karnataka
in discussion with department officers.

Dr. E V Ramana Reddy, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Commerce and Industries,
Government of Karnataka

Gunjan Krishna, IAS
Commissioner for Industrial Development
& Director of Industries & Commerce
Government of Karnataka

As enshrined in our Constitution, "to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement." is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.